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5 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
6 EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

7 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

8 Plaintiff,

9 v.

10 LAWRENCE LEE WILLIAMS,

11 Defendant.

NO. 2:20-CR-0127-TOR-2

ORDER DENYING DEFENDANT'S  
MOTION TO REDUCE SENTENCE

12 BEFORE THE COURT is Defendant's pro se Motion for Compassionate  
13 Release. ECF No. 92. The Court has reviewed the record and files herein and is  
14 fully informed. For the reasons discussed below, Defendant's Motion for  
15 Compassionate Release is denied.

16 **BACKGROUND**

17 On April 29, 2021, Lawrence Lee Williams appeared before the Court and  
18 entered a plea of guilty to Count 1 of the Indictment filed on October 21, 2020,  
19 charging him with Conspiracy to Possess with the Intent to Distribute 50 Grams or  
20 More of Actual (Pure) Methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841, 846.

1 ECF Nos. 54, 56.

2 On May 27, 2021, this Court sentenced Defendant to a 72-month term of  
3 imprisonment followed by a 5-year term of supervised release. ECF No. 67.  
4 Defendant was remanded to the custody of the United States Marshal for transport  
5 to the Bureau of Prisons. *Id.*

6 On June 14, 2023, Defendant filed his *pro se* motion for compassionate  
7 release. ECF No. 92. Defendant complains of his medical condition and the need  
8 for professional medical treatment. According to the Bureau of Prisons, Defendant  
9 has a projected release date of March 16, 2025.

## 10 DISCUSSION

### 11 A. Eligibility for Compassionate Release

12 Federal courts have the statutory authority to modify an imposed term of  
13 imprisonment for two reasons: compassionate release under 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(1)  
14 or based on a change in the sentencing guidelines under 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(2).  
15 Until recently, motions for compassionate release could only be brought to the  
16 Court by the Director of the Bureau of Prisons. 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(1)(A) (2002).  
17 However, after the December 2018 passage of the First Step Act, defendants may  
18 now bring their own motions for compassionate release after exhausting  
19 administrative remedies within the Bureau of Prisons or by waiting 30 days after  
20

1 receipt of their request by the warden of defendant's facility, whichever is earlier.

2 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(1)(A).

3 A defendant may be eligible for compassionate release: (1) if the Court finds  
4 "extraordinary or compelling reasons" to warrant a sentence reduction; or (2) if the  
5 defendant is at least 70 years old, has served at least 30 years in prison pursuant to  
6 a sentence imposed for the offense for which the defendant is currently imprisoned,  
7 and the defendant is determined not to pose a risk of danger to the community. 18  
8 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(1)(A). Under either eligibility prong, the Court must also find  
9 that a sentence reduction is "consistent with applicable policy statements issued by  
10 the [United States] Sentencing Commission." 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(1)(A). The  
11 Sentencing Guidelines instruct that the Court should consider the sentencing  
12 factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553 when deciding a motion for compassionate  
13 release, and that the Court should not grant a sentence reduction if the defendant  
14 poses a risk of danger to the community, as defined in the Bail Reform Act.  
15 U.S.S.G. § 1B1.13.

16 **B. Exhaustion or Lapse of 30 days**

17 Defendant has not shown that he exhausted his administrative remedies by  
18 filing his request with the warden and appealing the denial of his request. Thus,  
19 the Court cannot grant Defendant's motion according to the governing statute.  
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1 **ACCORDINGLY, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

2 Defendant's Motion for Compassionate Release, ECF No. 92, is **DENIED**.

3 The District Court Executive is directed to enter this Order and furnish  
4 copies to the parties (including Defendant at the Lompoc U.S. Penitentiary).

5 DATED June 27, 2023.



*Thomas O. Rice*  
THOMAS O. RICE  
United States District Judge